

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

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Claim 1 (currently amended) A mat fastener for connection to a floor mat of an automobile comprising:

- a. a male grommet made of a resin material;
- b. a female grommet made of a resin material;
- c. the female grommet having an outer tube portion having opposite open ends and adapted to be inserted into a hole formed in the floor mat;
- d. the female grommet having a flange formed at an outer periphery of one of the ends of the outer tube portion and being adapted to be in contact with one side surface of the mat, the outer tube portion projecting axially beyond the flange of the female grommet for insertion into the hole formed in the floor mat;
- e. the male grommet having an inner tube portion having opposite open ends and adapted to be inserted into the outer tube portion of the female grommet and a flange formed at an outer

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periphery of one of the ends of the inner tube portion;

- f. the flange of the male grommet adapted to be in contact with another side surface of the mat; wherein:
- g. each of the outer and inner ~~tube portions~~ tubes is provided with an engagement means for coupling the female and male grommets to each other so that, upon engagement thereof, one of the flanges of the grommets is adapted to be brought into contact with one of the side surfaces of the mat around the mat hole and the other flange of the grommets is adapted to be brought into contact with the other side surface of the mat, whereby the mat fastener is fastened to the mat with the mat sandwiched between the flanges;
- h. one of the flanges of the male and female grommets has a larger outside dimension than that of the other thereof; and
- i. each of the flanges has an outer peripheral portion formed in a curve shape to be directed toward the mat to allow each of the flanges to bite into the mat when the male and female

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grommets are coupled to each other by the engagement means.

Claim 2 (previously amended) The mat fastener claimed in Claim 1 wherein:

- a. the flange of the female grommet is formed in a circular plate of a predetermined diameter;
- b. the flange of the male grommet is formed in a circular plate of predetermined diameter smaller than the diameter of the flange of the female grommet;
- c. the outer peripheral portion of the male grommet flange is formed in a curved shape to allow the male grommet flange to bite into the mat toward the female grommet flange; and
- d. the outer peripheral portion of the female grommet flange is formed in a curved shape to allow the female grommet flange to bite into the mat toward the male grommet flange.

Claim 3 (previously amended) The mat fastener claimed in Claim 2 in combination with a floor mat, wherein:

- a. the floor mat includes an upper carpet layer and a lower rubber base layer;

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- b. the male grommet is disposed on the side of the carpet layer of the floor mat; and
- c. the female grommet is disposed on the side of the base layer of the floor mat.

Claim 4 (previously amended) The combination claimed in Claim 3 wherein:

- a. the outer peripheral portion of the female flange includes a plurality of circumferentially spaced protrusions formed thereon to extend toward the base layer.

Claim 5 (currently amended) The combination claimed in Claim 4 wherein:

- a. at least one of the female and male grommet flanges includes a pin capable of biting into the mat to prevent relative rotation between the outer and inner ~~tube portions~~ tubes.

Claim 6 (previously amended) The combination claimed in Claim 5 wherein:

- a. each of the female and male grommets is integrally formed of a resin material; and

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b. the resin material has a low elastic modulus and is substantially deformable.

Claim 7 (currently amended) The mat fastener claimed in Claim 1, wherein a flange of one of the grommets has an annular concavity therein surrounding the tube portion of that grommet and adapted to be brought into contact with one of the side surfaces of the mat around the mat hole.

Claim 8 (currently amended) The mat fastener claimed in Claim 1, wherein the flange of each grommet has an annular concavity therein surrounding the tube portion of that grommet and adapted to be brought into contact with one or the other side surface of the mat around the mat hole.

Claim 9 (previously presented) The mat fastener claimed in Claim 1, wherein one of the flanges has a plurality of protrusions to extend toward the mat.

Claim 10 (currently amended) The mat fastener claimed in Claim 1, wherein the flange of the female grommet has an annular concavity therein surrounding the tube portion of

(1) the female grommet and adapted to be brought into contact with said one side surface of the mat around the mat hole.

Claim 11 (previously presented) The mat fastener claimed in Claim 10, wherein the flange of the female grommet has a plurality of protrusions to extend toward the mat.

Claim 12 (previously amended) A mat fastener for connection to a floor mat of an automobile comprising:

- a. a male grommet made of a resin material;
- b. a female grommet made of a resin material;
- c. the female grommet having an outer tube portion having opposite open ends and adapted to be inserted into a hole formed in the floor mat;
- d. the female grommet having a flange formed at an outer periphery of one of the ends of the outer tube portion and being adapted to be in contact with one side surface of the mat, the outer tube portion projecting axially beyond the flange of the female grommet for insertion into the hole formed in the floor mat;

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- e. the male grommet having an inner tube portion having opposite open ends and adapted to be inserted into the outer tube portion of the female grommet and a flange formed at an outer periphery of one of the ends of the inner tube portion;
- f. the flange of the male grommet adapted to be in contact with another side surface of the mat; wherein:
- g. each of the outer and inner tube portions is provided with an engagement means for coupling the female and male grommets to each other so that, upon engagement thereof, one of the flanges of the grommets is adapted to be brought into contact with one of the side surfaces of the mat around the mat hole and the other flange of the grommets is adapted to be brought into contact with the other side surface of the mat, whereby the mat fastener is fastened to the mat with the mat sandwiched between the flanges;
- h. one of the flanges of the male and female grommets has a larger outside dimension than that of the other thereof;
- i. each of the flanges has an outer peripheral portion formed in a curve shape to be directed toward the mat to allow each of the flanges to

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bite into the mat when the male and female grommets are coupled to each other by the engagement means;

- j. the flange of the female grommet has an annular concavity surrounding the tube portion of the female grommet; and
- k. wherein the flange of the female grommet has a plurality of radial, circumferentially spaced stiffening ribs formed in the concavity between the tube portion and the outer peripheral portion of the female grommet.

Claim 13 (previously presented) The mat fastener claimed in Claim 12, wherein the stiffening ribs support a plurality of protrusions to bite into the mat toward the male grommet flange.

Claim 14 (previously presented) The mat fastener claimed in Claim 2, wherein the outer peripheral portion of the flange of the female grommet has a plurality of circumferentially spaced protrusions to bite into the mat toward the male grommet flange.

Claim 15 (currently amended) In combination, a mat fastener and a floor mat with a hole therethrough for receiving the mat fastener, wherein the mat fastener comprises:

a female grommet having a flange engaging one side of the mat and a tube ~~portion~~ projecting from the flange and inserted in the hole of the mat, the flange having an annular concavity therein surrounding the tube ~~portion~~ and facing said one side of the mat; and

a male grommet having a flange engaging an opposite side of the mat and a tube ~~portion~~ projecting from the flange and inserted into the tube ~~portion~~ of the female grommet, and wherein:

the grommets have engagement means for retaining the tube ~~portion~~ of the male grommet in the tube ~~portion~~ of the female grommet, and

a portion of the mat is received in the concavity of the female grommet.

Claim 16 (previously presented) The combination of Claim 15, wherein the female grommet has a plurality of protrusions that bite into the mat.

Claim 17 (currently amended) The combination of Claim 15, wherein the flange of the male grommet has an annular concavity therein surrounding the tube portion of the male grommet and facing said opposite side of the mat, and wherein the mat is sandwiched between the concavities of the grommets.

Claim 18 (currently amended) The combination of Claim 15, wherein the flange of the female grommet has a plurality of radial, circumferentially spaced stiffening ribs formed in the concavity between the tube portion and an outer peripheral portion of the flange of the female grommet.

Claim 19 (previously presented) The combination of Claim 18, wherein the stiffening ribs support a plurality of protrusions that bite into the mat toward the male grommet flange.

Claim 20 (previously presented) The combination of Claim 18, wherein the outer peripheral portion of the flange of the female grommet has a plurality of

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circumferentially spaced protrusions that bite into the mat toward the male grommet flange.

Claim 21 (currently amended) The combination of Claim 15, wherein at least one of the female and male grommet flanges includes a pin that bites into the mat to prevent relative rotation between the outer and inner ~~tube portions~~ tubes.
